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Y2K

This booklet offers background information on the Y2K issue and provides suggestions on how you and your family can prepare for the century date change.

WHAT IS THE YEAR 2000 ISSUE?

The Year 2000, or Y2K, issue (also known as the Y2K problem, the Y2K Bug, and the Millennium Bug) refers to the difficulty some computers may have telling the difference between the Year 2000 and the Year 1900. Computers not able to properly recognize the Year 2000 date may produce incorrect data or shutdown.

While it is unlikely the Y2K issue will affect most of the appliances and electronic equipment we use in our homes, the large number and inter-connectivity of computers we depend upon every day make Y2K a serious challenge. In the workplace, computers help to operate everything from factory production lines to cash registers. As a result, businesses and governments in the United States have spent billions of dollars over the past few years to make sure their computers will be ready for the date change.

How Did It Happen?

In the early days of computers, computer memory was scarce and expensive. Computer programmers saved memory space by using two digits to represent the year. For example, 1999 was entered as "99." Over time, the use of two digits became common within the computer industry and, today, a number of computers operate with this format. When the Year 2000 arrives, not all of these computers and electronic systems will be able to properly recognize the new year.

Does the Y2K Issue Apply Only to January 1, 2000?

Some people think the Y2K issue will surface only on New Year's Day. This is not true. Y2K challenges can happen any time a computer that is not Y2K compliant uses a Year 2000 date. A number of businesses and governments have already had to use Year 2000 dates in their automated operations. Hotels and airlines operate systems that have been processing Year 2000 reservations for several months. Many companies and government agencies have budget systems in which Fiscal Year 2000 has already begun and they too have been operating successfully. On the other hand, some glitches or problems caused by the Y2K issue may not be apparent for several days or weeks after January 1, 2000.

Somebody told me... I heard that...

A great deal has been written and said about what could happen on January 1, 2000. Some of it is true, but a number of the stories and tales told about Y2K are not accurate. This booklet is designed to provide you facts about the Y2K issue, what it could mean to you, and ways to prepare for any problems that may occur.



HOW WILL THE Y2K ISSUE AFFECT ME?

Outside the home, we all rely on companies and other organizations in our communities for important services (e.g., electric power, telephone service, banking). Many organizations have made a significant effort to prepare computers for the date change and test back-up plans in case there are system failures. But no one can say for sure that there won't be problems or glitches related to the Y2K issue. These problems could create temporary disruptions in some services.



Information provided to the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion and the public indicates that the major national systems that support the basic infrastructure in the United States (e.g., networks for power, telecommunications, transportation, financial transactions) are expected to be ready for the Year 2000. There is, however, significant concern about smaller organizations that are taking a "wait and see" approach to the Y2K issue (i.e., wait to see what breaks and fix it after January 1). This concern particularly applies to some small businesses, local governments, health care facilities, and educational institutions.

Organizations taking a wait and see approach to the Y2K issue are placing themselves — and the people they serve — at a greater risk of experiencing difficulties related to the date change.

What Should I Do?

It is important for individuals, like businesses and governments, to be prepared for Y2K. You can use the information provided in this booklet, along with Y2K readiness information from your local service providers, to help you and your family to be ready for the date change. We encourage you to follow the steps outlined

in the Y2K Preparedness Checklist (pages 16-17) to be better prepared for Y2K or any future emergency.

If you have additional questions about the Y2K issue, the Federal Government operates a toll-free Y2K information line – 1-888-USA-4-Y2K (1-888-872-4925). The line is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with updated information on the most requested subjects. Information specialists and researchers are available to answer your questions during normal business hours, Monday - Friday. You can also call the information line to order additional free copies of this booklet.

For More Information

- ★ The President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion web site — <http://www.y2k.gov> — contains regularly updated information on the Y2K issue and links to other important Y2K-related sites. The President's Council, which was created by President Clinton in February 1998, is in charge of coordinating the Federal Government's Year 2000 efforts. Information on the web site is also available by calling 1-888-USA-4-Y2K.

Did You Know?

9/9/99

The 9/9/99 date milestone (consecutive "9s" were sometimes used as a command to stop computer programs) passed with only a handful of reported glitches, but it is no reason to become complacent about the Year 2000. The Y2K issue is a different, and more widespread, challenge for computers.



UTILITIES

We rely on local utility companies every day for power, phone service and water. These companies have been working diligently to make sure that they are ready for the Year 2000, so that on New Year's Day people can enjoy the normal festivities of the holiday season.

Electric Power

The electric power industry has completed most of its Y2K remediation work and is confident in its ability to make a successful transition to the Year 2000. While the possibility of local power outages can never be ruled out — there are no guarantees any of us will have power tomorrow, let alone on January 1 — the industry is accustomed to planning for and responding to outages caused by bad weather, accidents, equipment failures, and other events.

Telephone Service

It is unlikely the Y2K issue will create difficulties for the nation's telecommunications network. Large telephone companies, which provide services to most Americans, have been leaders in fixing and testing systems to make sure they are ready for the Year 2000. The major U.S. local and long distance carriers expected to complete upgrades of their key systems by the end of September 1999.

Telephone usage is expected to be heavy on January 1, 2000. People are encouraged to use telephones, and the Internet, only as necessary on New Year's Day. "Testing" the systems to see if they work or engaging in long conversations could create delays greater than those experienced during high volume usage periods such as Mother's Day. If you are unable to obtain a dial tone, it is

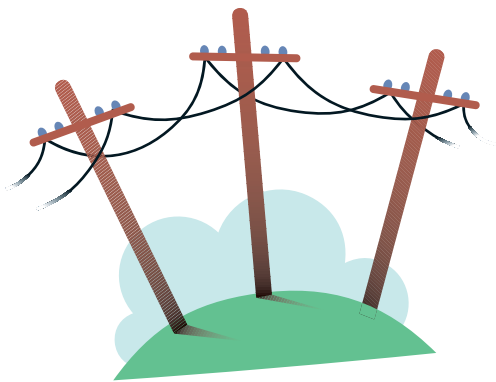
recommended that you wait several minutes before making another attempt to place your call or to log on to the Internet.

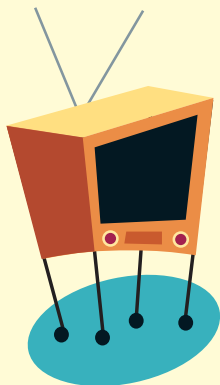
Water

Water system operators are confident that they will be ready for the date change. Most of them are fixing and testing their automated processes. In the event of problems, most facilities can convert to manual operations as a back-up.

For More Information

- ★ Read utility company notices about Y2K readiness. If you have additional questions, contact your individual service provider. You should be able to find contact phone numbers on your most recent bill.
- ★ The Federal Communications Commission web site — <http://www.fcc.gov/year2000> — contains information about the Y2K preparations of the communications sector.





Did You Know?

Television and Radio

Broadcasters have been taking steps to ensure that the Y2K issue will not affect radio and television broadcasts. The Federal Communications Commission is confident that, even if some broadcasters experience service outages due to Y2K-related problems, the multiplicity of listening and viewing options ensures that there is little risk the public will be without radio and television broadcasts as a source of information.

Did You Know?

Personal Preparedness

Disruptions in basic utilities can happen at any time.



It's always a good idea to make sure that you have adequate clothing, tools and supplies, flashlights, batteries, a battery-powered radio, and a first aid kit, as recommended by FEMA and the American Red Cross. For more information, visit: <http://www.fema.gov/pte/emprep.htm> and <http://www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/emereprep.html>, or call FEMA at 1-800-480-2520.



PERSONAL FINANCE

Across the United States, people make an annual estimated 1.8 trillion retail purchases using credit cards and engage in 11 billion transactions using automatic teller machines (ATMs). Computers are an important part of these and other activities involving your finances.

Banks, brokerage and securities firms, and other financial institutions are among those that have received the highest marks for Y2K readiness. In addition to devoting years of effort and spending billions of dollars to make sure their own systems are ready, financial institutions have been cooperating with one another to test the points where computers interact throughout the industry.

Your Money

It is extremely unlikely that the Y2K issue will cause banks and other financial institutions to lose track of your finances. Financial institutions have been working for years to make sure that computers used for record keeping will be ready for the Year 2000 and most financial institutions are required to keep back-up copies of critical books and records stored in electronic form.

Depository institutions such as banks, thrifts, and credit unions have extensive Y2K programs in place. Federal financial regulatory agencies like the Federal Reserve, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency have conducted multiple examinations of their progress and have found that virtually all Federally insured depository institutions are ready for the date change.

The securities industry, under the supervision of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), has been working aggressively to make sure that the Year 2000 will mean business as usual for its operations. Firms are required to report to the SEC on their Y2K readiness. The roughly 400 broker/dealers, markets, and clearing and settlement organizations that clear all market transactions participated in detailed industry-wide Y2K testing in spring 1999. The testing produced very few Y2K glitches, and those that did occur were fixed quickly.

ATMs

Depository institutions and firms that operate ATM networks have established aggressive programs with rigorous testing to make sure that ATMs will work normally on January 1 and every day thereafter. While most ATMs are expected to make a successful transition to the new year, remember that temporary disruptions in ATM service are not unusual and may not be Y2K-related. If one

ATM is out of service, another one is usually available nearby. In addition, the Federal Reserve has taken steps to make sure that financial institutions have sufficient cash available at year's end.



Credit Cards

Credit card companies are confident that their key systems will be ready for the Year 2000 and, with retail stores, are making sure individual credit card processors are ready as well. As always, stores that experience difficulties with their automated credit processing equipment can process card transactions manually.

Reported problems about the use of credit cards with post-1999 expiration dates appear to have been solved. Most consumers have now successfully made purchases using credit cards with expiration dates in the Year 2000 and beyond.

Employer Payroll and Retirement Plans

Your employer should be making sure that computer systems for payroll and retirement funds are ready for the date change. If your employer has not provided you with information about Y2K efforts in these areas, it is a good idea to inquire about their readiness.

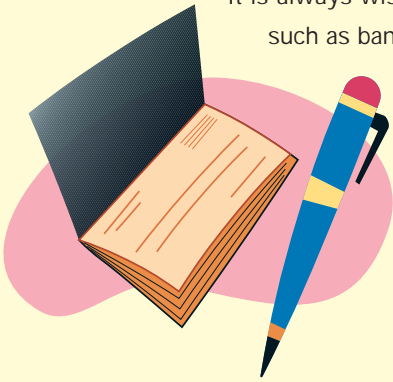
For More Information

- ★ Make sure to read Y2K notices from your bank and other financial service providers.
- ★ The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council web site — <http://www.ffiec.gov> — provides additional information about financial institutions' Y2K readiness.

Did You Know?

Financial Records

It is always wise to keep copies of important records such as bank and financial statements. When you receive a transaction receipt, check it for accuracy and save it to compare against your statement.



Did You Know?

Cash

Withdrawing large amounts of cash for Y2K is unnecessary and may invite theft. If you decide to withdraw cash, hold only as much as you would for any holiday weekend. Remember that, as always, you have more than one payment option (e.g., checks, credit cards, debit cards, traveler's checks).

Did You Know?

Scams

Beware of Y2K scams. Be skeptical if someone tries to sell you a product, service or investment that is "Y2K safe" or wishes to sell you Y2K insurance. Never give out your bank account, credit card or Social Security number unless you initiated the call or contact.

SCAMS

FOOD AND FUEL

The food industry has been focused on making sure its computers will not be affected by the Y2K issue. Food manufacturers, distributors, and supermarkets report that, as a result of these efforts, consumers will find that stores have ample supplies of essential food and groceries.

Food

Grocery stores are already anticipating a surge in sales at the end of the year because of millennium celebrations, and they intend to have sufficient inventory on hand. The nation's supermarket companies report that they normally have five weeks of inventory in their distribution centers and stores. These stocks provide a supply cushion in times of unusual demand surges.

If supermarket companies do experience Y2K-related difficulties, it is important to remember that the industry is accustomed to operating under adverse conditions. Companies already have contingency plans in place so that they can continue to serve their customers when, for example, bad weather creates problems with power and other services.



Gasoline

The oil and gas industry expects to conduct business as usual over the New Year's weekend. The industry is committed to ensuring safe and reliable delivery of gasoline in the Year 2000 and beyond. Service stations have been testing and, when necessary, replacing fuel pump systems to make them Y2K-ready.

Home Heating Oil and Natural Gas

Supplies of home heating oil and natural gas should not be affected by the date change, according to the oil and gas industry. Companies have been checking and testing embedded systems found in pipelines carrying petroleum and natural gas, as well as in drilling platforms and rigs. As the New Year approaches, the industry is advising consumers to arrange for regular delivery of heating oil.

While there are concerns about the Y2K readiness of some developing countries from which the United States imports oil, two of the major suppliers to the U.S., Canada and Mexico, are basically done with their Y2K work.



Pull-out

Y2K

Preparedness
Checklist

Y2K PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

Governments and businesses have spent billions of dollars to ensure that computer systems will make a successful transition to the next century. Although it is unlikely that the Year 2000, or Y2K, issue will create significant problems in the United States, no one can say for sure that there won't be temporary disruptions in some services. Such interruptions are expected to be short-lived, like temporary problems in service caused by storms, and while inconvenient, are not expected to cause long-term problems. The following recommendations will help you and your neighbors prepare for any difficulties that may occur:

Local Information: Read Y2K notices provided by local government officials, banks, power and telephone companies, health care organizations and other important service providers. Adapt the recommendations in this checklist to what you learn locally and to your past experiences with local service providers.

Food, Water and Other Supplies:

- ✓ Prepare as you would for a long holiday weekend by having at least a three-day supply of food and water (one gallon per person per day). The food industry is not only ready for Y2K, but it is resilient and accustomed to dealing with unexpected disruptions (e.g., storms). As always, it is a good idea to make purchases early.
- ✓ Make a personal assessment of items and services that are critical to your family, including special items or services required by family members with special needs, such as infants, the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- ✓ Make sure that you have adequate clothing, tools and supplies, flashlights, batteries, a battery-powered radio and a first aid kit, as recommended by FEMA and the American Red Cross. For further information, visit: <http://www.fema.gov/pte/emprep.htm> and <http://www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/emereprep.html>, or call FEMA at 1-800-480-2520.
- ✓ Follow all appropriate safety instructions for fuel storage and use of heating and cooking devices or other emergency items.

Important Records: Keep copies of important records — particularly your bank and financial statements, medical records and prescription drug information — in the few months before and after January 1, 2000. When you receive a transaction receipt, check it for accuracy and save it to compare against your statement.

- ✓ Develop a list of phone numbers for hospitals, police and fire departments and neighbors.

Cash: If you decide to withdraw cash, hold only as much as you would for any holiday weekend. Withdrawing large amounts of cash is unnecessary and may invite theft. Remember that financial institutions are well prepared for the date change and you have more than one payment option (e.g., checks, credit cards, debit cards, traveler's checks).

Medicine: As always, refill prescription medications when you have a five- to seven-day supply remaining. The pharmaceutical and health care industries are confident, based on experience, that following this standard practice is all that is needed for Y2K. If you have any questions about your health care needs, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or other health care provider.

Gasoline: As you would in preparation for a winter storm, keep your automobile gas tank above half full. Service stations are re-supplied regularly — sometimes as often as every other day.

Consumer Electronics: Check with manufacturers to see if the essential electronic equipment you use around your home is Y2K ready, especially personal computers, monitored security systems or programmable thermostats.

Telephones and Internet: Use telephones and the Internet only as necessary on January 1. "Testing" the systems to see if they work or engaging in long conversations could create delays greater than those experienced during high volume usage periods such as Mother's Day.

Scams: Beware of Y2K scams. Be skeptical if someone tries to sell you a product, service or investment that is "Y2K safe" or wishes to sell you Y2K insurance. Never give out your bank account, credit card or Social Security number unless you initiated the call or contact.





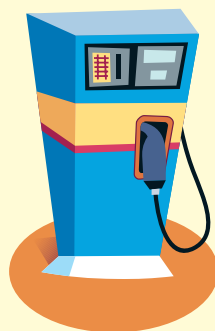
For More Information

- ★ Many grocery stores have brochures and other written materials about their Y2K readiness. If you are interested in learning more, ask for a copy during your next visit.
- ★ The U.S. Department of Agriculture's web site — <http://www.usda.gov/aphis/FSWG> — contains additional information about the Y2K readiness of the food supply system.
- ★ For more information about the Y2K readiness of the oil and gas industry, visit the Council's Oil and Gas Sector Working Group web page at <http://www.ferc.fed.us/y2k/index.html>.

Did You Know?

Gasoline

Gasoline service stations are re-supplied regularly — sometimes as often as every other day. Nonetheless, you should always keep your automobile gas tank above half full.

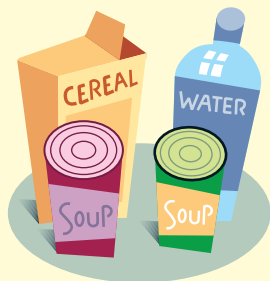


Did You Know?

Food and Water

Since no one can say for sure that there won't be some Y2K glitches, prepare as you would for a long holiday weekend by having at least a three-day supply of food and water (one

gallon per person per day). As always, it is a good idea to make purchases early.



HEALTH

In health care, making sure that computers are ready for the Year 2000 is an important priority. Most hospitals, doctors offices, health clinics, and long-term care facilities across the United States have been working together to identify and solve potential date change problems.

Large health care facilities have aggressive efforts underway to make sure the Y2K issue will not affect their operations. However, much less is known about the readiness of smaller health care providers. Y2K difficulties are not expected to have a direct impact upon patient care, but record keeping and payment systems could be at risk in health care facilities taking a wait and see approach to the Y2K issue.

Hospitals

Most hospitals have contacted local medical vendors, suppliers, and other organizations to make sure that hospital medical devices, as well as important record keeping and payment systems, are ready for the Year 2000. As an extra precaution, hospitals are also updating long standing back-up plans for storms and other events so that they can continue to provide health care in the event of temporary disruptions in key services such as power and telecommunications.

Medical Devices

Medical devices include a wide range of equipment used in hospitals, ambulances, and long-term care facilities. Medical devices also include implanted items, such as pacemakers, but these are not affected by the Y2K issue.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has requested that medical device manufacturers assess whether their equipment is Year 2000 compliant. Manufacturers have discovered that some devices may experience minor problems related to the Y2K issue, such as showing an incorrect year date on display monitors. The vast majority of medical devices do not have date change issues that will affect patient health or the delivery of safe and appropriate care.

Health care facilities are dedicated to making sure that the few devices that rely more extensively on computers — and could present problems for patient care if not fixed before December 31, 1999 — receive appropriate upgrades or are replaced.

Home Health Care

Medical devices and equipment used in home health care are not likely to experience Y2K problems that will affect their safe operation. It is a good idea, however, to contact each item's manufacturer to make sure that it will function properly in Year 2000 and beyond.



For More Information

- ★ If you have concerns, ask your doctor or local health care facility about their readiness for the Year 2000.
- ★ For more information on medical devices and the Y2K issue, visit the Food and Drug Administration's web site at <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/yr2000/year2000.html>.

Did You Know?

Prescription Medications

It is always a good idea to refill prescription medications when you have a five- to seven-day supply remaining. The pharmaceutical and health care industries are confident, based on experience and the 90-day supply of finished products in the supply system, that following this standard practice is all that is needed for Y2K.



Did You Know?

911 Systems

The organizations responsible for the operation of 911 answering centers vary by community. Some are operated by fire departments, others are run by police or private companies under contract to the local government. If you wish to find out more about the Y2K readiness of your local 911 systems, check with your local emergency services office.



Did You Know?

Medical Records

Keeping copies of important records such as medical histories and prescription drug information makes good sense for Y2K or any other time.



TRAVEL

The travel industry faces a global challenge with the Y2K issue. If you stop for a moment to think about travel outside the United States, it isn't hard to imagine how many computers play an important role in your safe transport and comfortable stay abroad.

The travel industry — including airports, airlines, government aviation officials, and travel agents — for some time has been fixing and testing systems within the United States so that they will be ready for the Year 2000. Overseas travel authorities are also making sure their systems are ready, but much work remains to be done on the Y2K issue in a number of countries. If you have plans to travel outside of the United States during the New Year's holiday, especially to developing countries, you should expect some difficulties related to the Y2K issue.



Domestic Air Travel

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has completed work to make sure that all of its systems — including those involved in air traffic control — are fully compliant for the Year 2000, and it is updating back-up plans just in case there are system problems.

The FAA has also been engaged with airlines, airports, and airplane manufacturers to make sure the Y2K issue will not affect the safety and effectiveness of their operations and products. Airplane manufacturers report that they have not found any Y2K problems in aircraft that would present a safety risk to passengers.

Travel Outside the United States



While many countries have made extraordinary progress on the Y2K issue in the past year, concerns still exist about Y2K readiness in some parts of the world. Individuals with plans for travel outside the United States can obtain country-specific information on Y2K readiness abroad from the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs and the Department of Transportation.

For More Information

- ★ The State Department provides country-specific information to travelers through consular information sheets and, in some cases, travel warnings. Consult <http://travel.state.gov/y2kca.html> or your travel agent for more information.
- ★ The Federal Aviation Administration web site — <http://www.faa.gov/y2k> — contains information about the FAA's preparations for the date change.
- ★ The Department of Transportation web site — <http://www.fly2k.dot.gov> — provides information about the Y2K readiness of international aviation systems.

Did You Know?

Travel Information



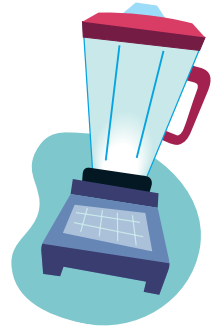
The State Department has for some time provided Americans traveling or living abroad country-specific information through consular information sheets on more than 180 countries. These sheets have been updated to include information on country Y2K readiness. You can consult <http://travel.state.gov/y2kca.html> for more information about these resources.

AROUND THE HOME: DOMESTIC APPLIANCES, CONSUMER ELECTRONICS, PERSONAL COMPUTERS, ELEVATORS

Items With No Significant Risks

Most appliances and consumer electronic systems in use around the home do not keep track of the year date to operate effectively and will probably not be affected by the Y2K issue. Refrigerators, ovens, microwaves, coffee makers, television sets, smoke detectors, washers and dryers, and alarm clock radios should not have difficulties with the date change.

In addition, major auto manufacturers that account for roughly 90 percent of all cars and light trucks sold in the United States have stated that the Y2K issue will not affect the safety and performance of their vehicles. If you have questions about a specific vehicle, contact the manufacturer or your local dealer.



What May Be Affected

A small number of domestic appliances and other consumer electronic systems are “year-date aware” and may experience Y2K-related difficulties. While it is unlikely that such difficulties will cause these products to stop working entirely, they could create inconveniences and should be checked. As always, it is a good idea to contact the manufacturer if you have any questions about whether a specific product will be affected by the Y2K issue.

VCRs

While most VCRs will not be affected by the Y2K issue, some models manufactured before 1987 that program by calendar date may experience difficulties.

Y2K problems with these few older VCRs will not disrupt your ability to play videotapes or view television programming if you use the VCR tuner to change stations on your TV set. However, timed recording could be affected. If you have an older model VCR and want to find out whether it is Y2K ready, contact the manufacturer.

Calendar Programmable Thermostats

Some home thermostats with advanced calendar functions that allow consumers to program temperature settings months in advance could be affected by the Y2K issue. If you have such a thermostat, contact the manufacturer to determine whether it is Y2K ready.

Security Systems

Professionally installed home security systems and home safety systems connected to large commercial monitoring systems should continue to operate normally in the Year 2000. However, small, consumer-installed systems may experience Y2K-related problems.

Consumers with questions about their security systems should contact the manufacturer. If you own a system that is connected to a professional monitoring service, it is also a good idea to find out if that company's systems are ready for the date change.

Cameras and Camcorders

Most cameras and camcorders that are date-aware will recognize the Year 2000 without difficulty. However, models that have problems recognizing the year will still work but may display the wrong date. Manufacturers can provide details on how to reset calendar date displays.

Fax Machines

Some fax machines that are not Y2K compliant may be unable to initiate and receive a call or fax. It is a good idea to check with the manufacturer to determine whether your machine is ready for the date change.

Personal Computers

Personal computers (PCs) are more complex than other household items and are at greater risk of experiencing Y2K-related difficulties — in hardware, operating systems, and software.

Hardware in PCs could be vulnerable to the Y2K issue. In particular, PC “BIOSs,” which store basic information about the computer and access its electronic calendar, could be affected. Operating systems (e.g., Windows 95), including some introduced as recently as 1998, could also experience problems related to the date change.



Software used for word processing, graphics, and games will probably not be affected by the Y2K issue. Software used for applications where year dates are critical, such as in spreadsheets, money management and personal organizer programs, could have problems and needs to be checked.

Most computer and software manufacturers offer extensive information about how the Y2K issue could affect their products. Fixes, or "patches," can often be downloaded from the Internet. Check manufacturer web sites for more information.

Elevators

If your apartment or condominium building is equipped with an elevator, you should know that many elevator manufacturers have said their products will not be affected by the date change.

Otis Elevators, one of the largest manufacturers, reports that its elevators are not year-date dependent.



It is important to note, however, that elevators could be affected if they are tied into larger building-control systems that are not Y2K ready. If you live in a building where you depend upon elevators, check with the building manager or community association to make sure they are on top of the situation.

Global Positioning System Receivers

Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers — often used for navigational purposes by recreational hikers, boaters, and campers — could be affected by the Y2K issue, which may result in users receiving incorrect navigational data. If you own a GPS receiver and want to find out whether it is ready for the Year 2000, check with the manufacturer.

For More Information

- ★ Many consumer electronics companies, PC manufacturers, and software companies have made information available about the Y2K readiness of their products. Check their web sites or call their toll-free information lines for details.
- ★ The PC Y2000 Alliance web site — <http://www.pcy2000.org/testing/index.htm> — contains links to Y2K web sites for PC manufacturers, steps to conduct manual tests, and links to free automatic tests.
- ★ The Federal Government's consumer web site has a Y2K section — <http://www.consumer.gov/y2k> — that contains Y2K compliance information for personal computers, consumer electronics, and automobiles.
- ★ Check <http://www.navcen.uscg.mil/gps/geninfo/y2k/default.htm> (the Coast Guard Navigation Center's web site) or call 1-888-USA-4-Y2K to find out more about how to contact GPS receiver manufacturers.

Did You Know?

Building Operations

You may live in a building where you share access to heat, power, and telephone service with other residents. If you do, it is a good idea to check whether your building manager or community association has taken steps to make sure these systems are ready for the date change.



Did You Know?

Global Positioning System

While many Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers passed an August 21 date challenge (the so-called "GPS End-Of-Week rollover") without

difficulty, users should still check with manufacturers to make sure their receiver is ready for the Year 2000.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: GETTING READY FOR Y2K

The Federal Government has undertaken a massive effort to ensure that its thousands of computer systems, which help to provide services to millions of Americans, will be ready for Year 2000.

Agencies have been working for years — some, like the Social Security Administration, since 1989 — to make sure that systems are ready for the date change. They've been evaluating systems, fixing or replacing those that are not Year 2000 ready, conducting system testing, and developing and testing contingency plans.

As a result of this major effort, the Federal systems and processes that help to provide some of the most important government services — from Social Security and veterans benefits to air traffic control, Medicare, and weather forecasting — are ready for the date change.

Federal agencies also monitor the administration by State governments of a number of important Federal benefit programs including Food Stamps, Child Nutrition Programs, WIC, Medicaid, Temporary Aid for Needy Families, Child Support Enforcement, Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program, Child Care, Child Welfare, and Unemployment Insurance.

Some States do not expect to finish their Y2K work on State-administered Federal programs until late 1999. If you depend upon these programs and have questions about your State's Y2K readiness, contact your State program office.

President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion

The President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion was established in February 1998 to coordinate the Federal Government's Year 2000 efforts. The more than 30 agencies represented on the Council are committed to making sure that Government systems and programs will make a successful transition to the new century.

The Council's working groups, led by Federal agencies, have been encouraging others — including businesses, State, local, and tribal governments, and other countries — to ensure that the Y2K issue does not affect their operations. Industry trade associations have been major partners in the Council's efforts by increasing awareness and gathering information about how their members are addressing the Y2K challenge.

The Council maintains a web site at <http://www.y2k.gov> that contains the most recent information about the Y2K issue, including the Council's quarterly status reports on Y2K within major industry sectors such as electric power, finance, and telecommunications. The web site also contains quarterly reports from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget on the Y2K progress of Federal agencies. Individuals can also call the Council's toll-free line at 1-888-USA-4-Y2K (1-888-872-4925) for more information about the Y2K issue.



NOTES



This consumer information pamphlet is offered at no cost by the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion. For additional free copies, contact the Y2K toll-free hotline at 1-888-USA-4-Y2K.